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California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 371 thousand tons, 10 percent below 1996. Acreage expected for harvest, at 130 thousand, is 6 percent below last year. The expected yield of 2.85 tons per acre is down 5 percent from 1996.

WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 741 thousand tons of winter wheat in 1997, down 35 percent from last year. The 380 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain are 31 percent below last year. The yield is expected to average 1.95 tons per acre, down 6 percent from last year. Grain acreage is down considerably due to extensive losses from the January floods. Also, more acreage is expected to be cut for hay or greenchop this year due to continued high demand from the dairy industry.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 46.8 million tons, up 6 percent from last year and 1 percent more than 1995. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is expected to average 1.15 tons, 3 percent above a year ago. Harvested acreage was estimated at 40.8 million, up 3 percent from 1996.

The U.S. estimate for Durum wheat production will not be available until July 11, 1997 for states other than Arizona and California.

WHEAT FORECAST

Crop & Location	Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	-- 1,000 --		-- Tons --		-- 1,000 Tons --	
WINTER						
California	550	380	2.07	1.95	1,139	741
U.S.	39,709	40,847	1.12	1.15	44,341	46,844
DURUM						
California	138	130	3.00	2.85	414	371
Arizona	164	99	2.70	2.79	443	276
U.S.	3,546	<u>a/</u>	0.98	<u>b/</u>	3,475	<u>b/</u>

a/ Published June 30, 1997.

b/ Published July 11, 1997.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Hay stocks on California farms as of May 1, 1997 totaled 160 thousand tons. This is 6 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 56 percent below May 1, 1996.

United States May 1 hay stocks on farms totaled 17.4 million tons. This is 17 percent of the December 1 stocks and down 16 percent from May 1, 1996.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	1994	1995	1996	1995	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Tons -----					
California	1,642	2,250	2,594	327	361	160
Arizona	133	265	82	27	28	28
Nevada	630	750	752	42	166	60
Oregon	1,761	2,310	2,108	85	264	97
Utah	1,452	1,481	1,327	245	349	302
United States	105,296	109,438	105,208	20,775	20,739	17,375

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 1997

Mid-April prices received by California farmers increased from March for all potatoes, winter potatoes, all hay and alfalfa hay. Wheat, dry edible beans, fall potatoes, and hay other than alfalfa were below previous month levels. Mid-April prices for barley and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, winter potatoes, and all types of hay. Wheat, all potatoes and fall potatoes were below April 1996 levels.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS 1 POINT

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 106 based on 1990-92 = 100, down one point (0.9 percent) from March. Price decreases from March for tomatoes, strawberries, eggs, and broilers were offset by price increases for hogs, onions, wheat, and lettuce. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and wheat more than offset the relatively higher marketings of cattle, milk, oranges, and strawberries. These changes contributed virtually all of the one point decrease in the overall index.

Compared with April 1996, the All Farm Products Index was two points (1.9 percent) lower. Price decreases since April 1996 for corn, eggs, wheat, and potatoes more than offset price increases for cattle, hay, hogs, and calves.

The April all crops index was 115, down 1.7 percent from March and 10 percent below April 1996. Price decreases since March for vegetables, fruits, and potatoes more than offset price increases for food grains, feed grains and hay, and oilseeds.

The April feed grains and hay index was 127, up 2.4 percent from last month, but 20 percent below April 1996. The all hay price, at \$117.00 per ton, was up \$9.00 from March. Corn prices, at \$4.98 per cwt., were unchanged from March, but were \$1.90 below the April 1996 price.

The April food grains index was 141, up 3.7 percent from the previous month, but 16 percent below April 1996. The April all wheat price, at \$6.93 per cwt., was up 38 cents from March, but \$1.94 below the April 1996 price.

The April potatoes and dry beans index was at 86, down 7.5 percent from March and 35 percent below April 1996. The April potato price, at \$4.65 per cwt., was down 47 cents from March and \$3.18 per cwt. below April 1996. Record fall production and the onset of winter and spring crop harvests continue to affect potato prices.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 1996	March 1997	Apr. 15, 1997	April 1996	March 1997	Apr. 15, 1997
		----- Dollars -----					
Corn <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.88	4.98	4.98
Wheat <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	9.42	7.57	7.43	8.87	6.55	6.93
Oats <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.66	5.94	5.94
Barley <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	8.38	6.31	c/	6.75	4.92	4.92
Sorghum Grain <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	7.29	4.37	4.45
Rice <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.35	10.20	10.00
Dry Edible Beans <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	34.70	39.50	39.40	22.70	23.50	22.60
All Potatoes <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	13.90	6.85	8.10	7.83	5.12	4.65
Winter	Cwt.	21.40	19.90	22.10	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	9.60	4.70	4.60	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	99.00	132.00	134.00	88.90	108.00	117.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	108.00	133.00	135.00	93.40	116.00	123.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	71.00	87.40	87.00	71.10	80.10	82.30
Upland Cotton Lint <u>b/</u>	Lb.	0.863	0.774	c/	0.789	0.694	0.694
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	---	---	---

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	April 1996	March 1997	April 1997	April 1996	March 1997	April 1997
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	685	680 ^{e/}	673	108	107 ^{e/}	106
All Crops	633	579 ^{e/}	568	128	117 ^{e/}	115
Food Grains	534	431 ^{e/}	447	168	136	141
Feed Grains and Hay	568	444	453	159	124	127
Cotton	667	587 ^{e/}	587	130	115 ^{e/}	115
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	668	472 ^{e/}	434	132	93 ^{e/}	86
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{f/}	1,495	1,529	1,537	114	117	117
Parity Ratio ^{g/}	46	44	44	95	91	91

^{a/} The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. ^{b/} Previous month revised to monthly average. ^{c/} Not published to avoid possible disclosure. ^{d/} Monthly average. ^{e/} Revised. ^{f/} All production indexes as of 15th of month. ^{g/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

1996 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 2.39 million bales (480 lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 1996, 3 percent more than the 2.31 million bales produced in 1995. Harvested acreage, at 995 thousand, was 15 percent below the 1.165 million harvested the previous year. The average yield was 1,153 pounds per acre, 200 pounds above 1995.

American-Pima production in California totaled 375 thousand bales, up 67 percent from the 225 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 164 thousand, was 43 percent above the 115 thousand harvested in 1995. The average yield was 1,098 pounds per acre, up 161 pounds from the previous year.

U.S. all cotton production totaled 18.9 million bales in 1996, 6 percent above 1995. Upland cotton production reached 18.4 million bales, 5 percent more than the previous year. American-Pima production increased 44 percent from a year earlier to total 529 thousand bales.

The area planted to all cotton totaled 14.6 million acres, down 14 percent from 1995. Harvested area, at 12.9 million acres, decreased 20 percent from the previous year. Yields for the U.S. averaged 707 pounds per acre.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED

Item	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		1995	1996	1995	1996
UPLAND COTTON					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	1,170.0	1,000.0	16,716.8	14,375.5
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	1,165.0	995.0	15,795.6	12,612.2
Yield	Lbs./Acre	953.0	1,153.0	533.0	701.0
Production <u>1/</u>	1,000 Bales	2,312.0	2,390.0	17,532.2	18,413.5
Price <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	Cents/Lb.	82.1	77.3	75.4	70.6
Value	1,000 Dollars	911,113.0	886,786.0	6,358,184.0	6,239,967.0
AMERICAN-PIMA					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	115.0	165.0	214.6	258.0
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	115.0	164.0	211.1	255.9
Yield	Lbs./Acre	937.0	1,098.0	836.0	991.0
Production <u>1/</u>	1,000 Bales	224.5	375.0	367.6	528.5
Price <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	Cents/Lb.	126.0	104.0	122.8	102.2
Value	1,000 Dollars	135,778.0	187,200.0	216,428.0	259,261.0
COTTONSEED <u>5/</u>					
Production	1,000 Tons	940.0	1,020.0	6,848.7	7,143.5
Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Tons	338.0	134.0	4,439.1	4,363.2
Other Farm Disposition <u>6/</u>	1,000 Tons	602.0	886.0	2,409.6	2,780.3
Used for Planting <u>7/</u>	1,000 Tons	9.9	9.2	145.5	144.4
Price	Dollars/Ton	132.0	175.0	106.0	130.0
Value	1,000 Dollars	124,080.0	178,500.0	731,005.0	928,655.0
Value of Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Dollars	44,616.0	23,450.0	470,545.0	567,216.0

1/ Net weight bales are 480 lbs. 2/ Marketing Year average price. 3/ The 1995 data includes allowance for unredeemed loans. 4/ The 1996 data is an average to December 1, 1996 with no allowance for unredeemed loans. More recent prices are not available due to changes in the Farm Bill. 5/ Revised 1995 crop, preliminary 1996 crop. 6/ Includes planting seed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses and other uses. 7/ Included in "other" farm disposition. Planting seed from previous year's crop.

SPRING POTATOES

California's spring potato production is forecast at 7.16 million cwt., down 5 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 18.6 thousand acres, down 7 percent from a year ago. The estimated average yield, at 385 cwt. per acre, is up 3 percent from last year. Outbreaks of late blight were fewer and less severe than last year. Harvest began on red and white varieties in late April, two weeks earlier than normal.

Nationally, spring potato production is forecast at 21.5 million cwt., down 4 percent from last month and last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 86.1 thousand acres, down 4 percent from a year ago, but 2 percent above two years ago. The average yield, projected at 250 cwt. per acre, is up 1 cwt. from last year and 10 cwt. above 1995.

SPRING POTATOES

State	Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
			--- Cwt. ---		--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
Alabama	1.9	1.5	160	175	400	304	263
Arizona	9.0	6.2	275	275	1,755	2,475	1,705
California	20.1	18.6	375	385	6,230	7,538	7,161
Florida							
Hastings	27.5	26.5	230	230	5,940	6,325	6,095
Other	8.0	8.8	180	170	1,890	1,440	1,496
No. Carolina	17.0	16.5	190	195	3,053	3,230	3,218
Texas	6.5	8.0	170	195	925	1,105	1,560
United States	90.0	86.1	249	250	20,193	22,417	21,498

MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's potato stocks totaled 1.10 million cwt. on May 1, 1997, unchanged from a year ago. Stocks represented 24 percent of fall potato production, compared to 21 percent of the previous year.

May 1, 1997 stocks in the U.S. totaled 101 million cwt., up 32 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 23 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage states, up four points from a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled a record high 340 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. Processor usage was also a record high at 166 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date were 32.8 million cwt., 9 percent above a year ago and 7 percent above losses two years ago. Processing continued to move potatoes at a record pace for the season. April processor usage was 18.2 million cwt., up 8 percent from a year ago, but 1 percent below two years ago.

Western states potato stocks totaled 76.6 million cwt. in six states, up 26 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 6 percent. Washington's stocks gained 32 percent, while Oregon's stocks were more than double last year's level. These three states contained 65 percent of the U.S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 58 percent, but Montana's stocks were down 35 percent.

MAY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1996	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1997	Percent of Production
	---- 1,000 Cwt. ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt. ----		Percent
California	5,330	1,100	21	4,600	1,100	24
Colorado	23,808	6,200	26	28,786	9,800	34
Idaho	132,657	36,000	27	139,960	38,000	27
Maine	17,160	2,800	16	21,175	5,200	25
Michigan	16,350	1,200	7	13,800	1,300	9
Minnesota	20,790	4,500	22	24,600	6,500	26
Montana	2,940	340	12	3,213	220	7
Nebraska	3,680	200	a/	4,402	390	a/
New York						
- Long Island	7,695	150	2	7,980	160	2
North Dakota	25,410	4,500	18	28,820	6,500	23
Ohio	1,404	a/	a/	1,275	a/	a/
Oregon	24,788	4,500	18	31,684	11,000	35
Pennsylvania	4,080	180	4	4,208	110	3
Washington	80,850	12,500	15	94,990	16,500	17
Wisconsin	26,000	2,000	8	31,590	4,000	13
15 STATE TOTAL	392,942	76,170	19	441,083	100,780	23

a/ Combined Nebraska and Ohio to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.